



# Dateline ERS

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Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is the main source of research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

## On the web...

### USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections to 2014

Steady domestic and international economic growth and gains in population strengthen demand for food and agricultural products in 2005-14, providing a favorable demand setting for the U.S. agricultural sector. USDA's long-term baseline projections cover agricultural commodities, agricultural trade, and aggregate indicators of the sector, such as farm income and food prices.

Find it at:

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/oce051/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/oce051/)

## Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook)

## Consumer Preferences Drive Changes in Global Food Markets

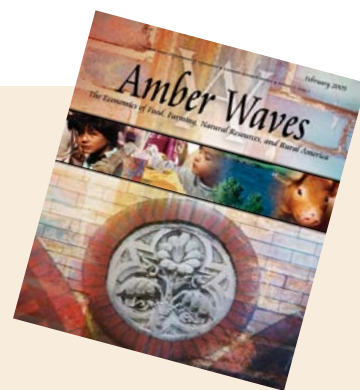
[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB794/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB794/)

At \$3.2 trillion, processed food sales are a major component of global food markets and account for about three-fourths of total world food sales. Still, only 10 percent of processed food sales are traded products. *New Directions in Global Food Markets* describes how consumer preferences are driving changes in global food supply chains, including growth in private label sales and expansion of multinational retailers and manufacturers in developing countries.

## Amber Waves February 2005

*Amber Waves* magazine covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including articles on food, farming, natural resources, and rural America.

[www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves)



### Processed Food Trade Pressured by Evolving Global Supply Chains

The last three decades have seen tremendous growth in sales of processed food sales now total \$3.2 trillion, or about three-fourths of the total world food sales. But, contrary to initial expectations, this phenomenon has not led to significant growth in global trade only 6 percent of processed food sales are traded compared with 16 percent of major bulk agricultural commodities.

### The Price is Right: Economics and the Rise in Obesity

In 2003, U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona said in testimony before the House of Representatives: "I welcome this chance to talk with you about a health crisis affecting every State, every city, every community, and every school across our great Nation. The crisis is obesity. It's the fastest growing cause of death in America."

### Farm Programs, Natural Amenities, and Rural Development

Do farm program payments boost the vitality of rural communities? We might suppose that, by maintaining farm incomes, these payments allow participating farms and their households to remain viable and to continue purchasing local goods and services.

### U.S.-Canadian Hog Trade: Market Integration at Work

The United States is expected to import more than 8 million hogs from Canada in 2004, a far cry from the 921,000 head imported just 10 years ago. Moreover, unlike 1994, hog imports this year will likely continue to be skewed in favor of feeder pigs.

## Net Farm Income Forecasted to be \$64.4 Billion

[www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/farmincome/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/farmincome/)

*Farm Sector and Household Income Forecast for 2005* gives USDA's perspective regarding the 2005 incomes earned within the farm sector of the U.S. economy, by farms within the sector and by households of farm operators.



## A Look at WTO Measures Affecting Market Access

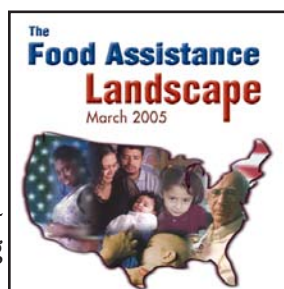
[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AER840/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AER840/)

*Market Access for High-Value Foods* examines global food trade patterns and the role of WTO market access rules in shaping the composition of global food trade.

## Food Assistance Program Expenditures Increase 10 Percent

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr28-6/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr28-6/)

According to the *Food Assistance Landscape, March 2005* report, expenditures for USDA's 15 food assistance programs totaled \$46 billion in fiscal 2004 (Oct. 1, 2003, to Sept. 30, 2004), marking the second consecutive year in which spending exceeded the previous record high.



## Nutrition and Health Outcomes of Food Assistance and Nutrition Program Participants Studied

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB796/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIB796/)

*Nutrition and Health Characteristics of Low Income Populations* is a series of research summaries that compare the nutritional and health characteristics of four subpopulation groups under the Food Assistance and Nutrition Program. The summaries highlight major findings in the areas of (1) body weight status, (2) Healthy Eating Index, (3) usual nutrient intake, (4) meal patterns, milk and soft drink consumption, and supplement use, and (5) measures of iron vitamin B12, cholesterol, bone density, and lead poisoning.

## WIC Participation Has Significant Effect on the Consumption of WIC-approved Cereal and Juice

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/FANRR44/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/FANRR44/)

*Children's Consumption of WIC-Approved Foods* provides strong evidence that participation in the WIC program increases consumption of at least some types of WIC-approved foods.

## Special Outlook Reports

### Forecasting Prices and Payments for Corn

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/FDS/JAN05/fds05a01/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/FDS/JAN05/fds05a01/)

*Forecasting the Counter-Cyclical Payment Rate for U.S. Corn: An Application of the Futures Price Forecasting Model* provides forecasts of the counter-cyclical payment rate for corn in conjunction with forecasts for the season-average price received.

### China's New Agricultural Policies Examined

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0501/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0501/)

In 2004, China's agricultural policy entered a new era in its approach to agricultural policy, as it began to subsidize rather than tax agriculture. *China's New Farm Subsidies* describes what is known about China's new agricultural policies and how they will affect rural incomes and agricultural production.

### Agricultural Developments Examined on NAFTA's 11th Anniversary

[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0502/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/WRS0502/)

In the 11 years since implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the agricultural sectors of Canada, Mexico, and the United States have become much more integrated. *NAFTA at 11: The Growing Integration of North American Agriculture* covers NAFTA's economic and policy developments through 2004.

### How to get more information ...

More information about the items featured in DatelineERS can be found at our Website: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov) by typing in the listed address. This newsletter is also available online at [www.ers.usda.gov/news](http://www.ers.usda.gov/news)